



galerie **leonard**
& bina
ellen
art gallery

LEONARD & BINA ELLEN ART GALLERY

Exhibition Final Report

RAYMOND GERVAIS 3 X 1 (PART 1)



The Passage, 1978, audiovisual installation presented at the Music Gallery, Toronto, 1978
Photo: Jean-Jacques Jabbour

EXHIBITION PROGRAMMING YEAR 2011-2012

Artist: Raymond Gervais

Exhibition Title: *Raymond Gervais 3 x 1*

Curator: Nicole Gingras

Exhibition Dates: November 1 to December 10, 2011

Vernissage: November 1, 2011

EXHIBITION DESCRIPTION

The Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery presents *Raymond Gervais 3 x 1*, a comprehensive retrospective dedicated to this major figure on the Quebec contemporary art scene from the 1970s to the present. Developed over a period of four years by the curator Nicole Gingras, *Raymond Gervais 3 x 1* is conceived as a single exhibition presented in two locations. For the first segment, the Ellen Gallery features solo works produced between 1975 and 2001. In Fall 2012, Vox, Contemporary Image Centre will exhibit works made between 1980 and 2012. This partitioning highlights the numerous recurrences and reverberations—poetic motifs inherent to Gervais' thinking and creative process—between the wide array of artworks and archival documents that make up *Raymond Gervais 3 x 1*.

Raymond Gervais' richly varied oeuvre encompasses photographs, texts, sculptures, installations, and performances revolving around the theme of the *aural imagination*—a way of conceptualizing sound and listening. This ongoing fascination is manifest in the exhibited works in *Raymond Gervais 3 x 1*. They build on the artist's profound knowledge of a wide range of musical traditions—from classical to jazz to the avant-garde, as well as the many iconic aspects of its material culture: musical instruments, album covers, record players, tape recorders, cassettes, CDs.... Notably, in these explorations, Gervais increasingly works less with sound *per se* and more with silence, weaving text, image, and object together in installation pieces where sound is often evoked rather than present.

Tracing Gervais' engagement with avant-garde sound and music scenes as well as performance and conceptual art practices over three decades, *Raymond Gervais 3 x 1* is the most significant exhibition dedicated to this Montreal artist to date. It will be accompanied by the launch of a 200-page publication including numerous reproductions of artworks and documents as well as essays by Raymond Gervais and Nicole Gingras. The artist recounts his beginnings as a musician, and his discovery of the avant-garde in music and the visual arts, while Gingras, who has a deep interest in sound art practices, explores the notion of the aural imagination in Gervais' oeuvre.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Raymond Gervais was born in 1946 in Montréal. Since the mid 1970s he has produced installations and performances that intersect with music, literature, and the visual arts. Records, turntables and CD cases are the subject of an ongoing exploration. In 1973, he formed the *Atelier de musique expérimentale* (AME), a non-profit association devoted to promoting new approaches to musical improvisation, with Yves Bouliane, Vincent

Dionne, Michel Di Torre, and Robert Marcel Lepage. AME organized the first Montréal appearances of Roscoe Mitchell (Art Ensemble of Chicago), Dollar Brand (Abdullah Ibrahim), and Karl Berger (Creative Music Studio, Woodstock). Gervais is the author of critical commentaries, essays and statements on musicians, visual artists, and his own practice that have been published in catalogues, anthologies, and periodicals. For a number of years he was the *musique actuelle* columnist at the contemporary art magazine *Parachute*. Raymond Gervais has participated in numerous exhibitions in Québec, Canada and abroad. They include *Tendances actuelles*, Canadian Cultural Centre, Paris (1977); *Yesterday and After*, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (1980); *OKanada*, Akademie der Künste, Berlin (1983); *Aurora Borealis*, Centre international d'art contemporain (1985); *Broken Music*, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal (1990); *Roto-Univers*, Power Plant, Toronto (1992); *Are You Talking to Me?*, Galerie de l'UQAM, Montréal (2003); *Soundtracks: Re-Play*, Edmonton Art Gallery and Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, University of Toronto (2003); *Frottements et surfaces sonores*, Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (2004); and *Traffic: Conceptual Art in Canada 1965-1980*, Alberta Art Gallery, Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Concordia University, Halifax INK, Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, University of Toronto, Vancouver Art Gallery (2010/2011). His works are part of both public and private collections in Québec and Canada. Raymond Gervais lives in Montréal.

LIST OF WORKS

Commencer par, puisqu'à toute fin correspond

1975

Black and white video, sound

40 min.

Distribution: Vidéographe

12 + 1 =

1976

Photograph

Photograph of the installation presented at Galerie Média, Montreal, in 1976.

Photo: Roland Poulin

Collection of the artist

Roche

1976

Performance

Digital transfer of sound recording of this performance for piano and rock, recorded in the artist's home in 1976.

10 min. 51 sec.

Collection of the artist

Les Accords intuitifs

1976

Performance; composition by Raymond Gervais

Digital transfer of sound recording. Performers: Pierre Cartier, Jean Derome, Charles de Mestral, Serge Foisy

10 min.

Collection of the artist

Déjà là

1976-1977

Installation

2 tables, 13 metronomes, radio, batteries, alarm clock, saxophone and case, toy

trumpet, vase, carnations, photograph album

National Gallery of Canada Collection, Ottawa. Purchased 1978.

3 + 1 =

1977-2011

Installation

4 posters

Silent version of a sound-based work

Photos : Pierre Boogaerts

Collection of the artist

Carignan : circuit-les-ponts

1977

Elements of the performance presented during the event *03 23 03 Premières rencontres internationales art contemporain Montréal*, Montreal, 1977

- Series of 45 slides projected during the performance, digitized and transferred to DVD

- Walk recorded on audio tape in 1977, digitized and transferred to compact disc. 46 min. 35 sec.

- Narration recorded on audio tape in 1977, digitized and transferred to compact disc.

Voice: Raymond Gervais. 8 min.

Collection of the artist

The Passage 2

1978-2011

Photographies, métronome, piles / Photographs, metronome, batteries

Photo : Jacques Jabhour

Collection of the artist

Re : Henri Rousseau, le tourne-disque et la recréation du monde

1987

Photograph (installation excerpt)

National Gallery of Canada Collection, Ottawa. Purchased 1989.

L'enclos de verre - Maurice Ravel joue pour Bud Powell

1988

Installation documents: album cover, installation photographs

Photos: Don Corman

Collection of the artist

Le 1^{er} disque

1990-1995

Installation

13 record players, 13 turntable mats, 13 white paper record sleeves, 1 record player with colour photograph, 2 record players with 1 percussion mallet each, 13 transparent plastic record player covers

Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal Collection

Piano pour Samuel Beckett

1990

Found object, silk screen print,
drawing

Musée d'art de Joliette Collection; gift of the artist

Via Copland

1990

Installation

Music stand, album cover, record, photograph, compact disc and compact disc case
Collection de l'artiste / Collection of the artist

Le vent tourne

1993

Mirror, 12 electric fans, black paper on floor

Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal Collection; gift of the artist

Dans le cylindre

1994

Installation

Photograph, cylinder phonograph, table

Purchased for the Prêt d'œuvres d'art collection, 1998; transferred to the permanent collection, Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec

Roto Univers

1994

Installation excerpt

Metronome, record player

Collection of the artist

En attendant Beckett (autour de Samuel Beckett)

1995

Installation

Record player, table, album cover, music stand, liner notes

Collection Musée régional de Rimouski; gift of the artist

Blaast

1996-2011

Les vents de la Terre, special issue

2 compact disc cases, text

Collection of the artist

Tous les vivants étaient morts

1997

Installation

27 compact disc cases, texts
Collection of the artist

Les couleurs de la musique

2001

Installation

Album covers, music stand, record player, record

Purchased for the Prêt d'œuvres d'art collection, 2004; transferred to the permanent collection, Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec

PUBLICATION

RAYMOND GERVAIS 3 X1

Coproduced with VOX, Contemporary Image Center. Edited by Nicole Gingras Essays by Nicole Gingras and Raymond Gervais. Design: Dominique Mousseau In English and in French. October 2011. 196 pp., colour illustrations, sewn layflat binding. \$40.00. ISBN 978-2-920394-86-5

PRESS REVIEW

Jérôme Delgado, "Raymond Gervais perce le mur du son, Des silences à voir et à lire," *Le Devoir* (Saturday, November 19-Sunday, November 20, 2011): E8.

Yaniya Lee, "About Sound Without Sound," *Montreal Mirror* (October 27– November 2, 2011): 47.

John Polh, "Jean Paul Lemieux's northern views are an easy sell," *The Gazette* (November 1, 2011): F5.

MENTIONS

Éric Clément, "Première reconnaissance d'un grand artiste conceptual," *Cyberpresse* (December 2, 2011).

BLOGS

"Voici 3 actualités qui ont retenu notre attention," *Le vadrouilleur urbain* (October 25, 2011).

"La une!," *Le vadrouilleur urbain* (October 24, 2011).

<http://levadrouilleurbain.wordpress.com/2011/10/24/exposition-raymond-gervais-3-x-1-galerie-leonard-bina-ellen/>

ATTENDANCE

1053 visitors

(For detailed attendance breakdown, see **ANNEX: PUBLIC PROGRAMMES**)

DOCUMENTATION

Digital installation images by Paul Litherland/Studio Lux, ©LBEAG

ANNEX: PUBLIC PROGRAMMES, ATTENDANCE, DISTRIBUTION

- Curatorial Presentation by Nicole Gingras - November 3, 2011 at 5:30
- Artist Talk / Performance by Raymond Gervais on his work *Re: Henri Rousseau, le tourne-disque et la recréation du monde* – November 19, 2011 at 2 pm (see LBEAG website, *Audio / Video* section: <http://ellengallery.concordia.ca/en/audio-video.php>)
- Mini Colloquium with Martin Arnold, Paul Théberge, David Tomas - November 26, 2011 at 2 pm (on LBEAG website, *Audio / Video* section: <http://ellengallery.concordia.ca/en/audio-video.php>)
- Didactic Materials: Leaflet in French (*Pistes de réflexion*) and English (*Ways of Thinking*), distributed free of charge. Available also on LBEAG website: http://ellengallery.concordia.ca/en/reflexion_raymondgervais.php

ATTENDANCE

Exhibition Dates: November 1 to December 10, 2011

Number of days open to the public: **30**

Total exhibition attendance (including events and guided tours): **1312**

Total exhibition attendance (excluding events, including gallery tours): **1053**

Total exhibition attendance (excluding events and gallery tours): **1026**

Events

Opening & Publication Launch: Tuesday November 1, 5 – 7 pm **149**

Curatorial Presentation: Thursday November 3, 5:30 pm **18**

Artist Talk/Performance: Saturday November 19, 2 pm **53**

Mini Colloquium: Saturday November 26, 2 pm (Panel discussion) **39**

Total attendance **259**

Bilingual Walk-In Tours

For the general public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 - 2:30 pm.

Total walk-in tour participants: **27**

DISTRIBUTION

Didactic Materials:

Pistes de réflexion leaflets distributed **310**

Ways of Thinking leaflets distributed **230**

Publication:

Sales & Distribution: Edipress (Montréal), Gallery Ellen, and LBEAG website
<http://ellengallery.concordia.ca/en/publications.php>

Copies sent out to the media as well as to museum directors working in Quebec, Canada, and abroad.